

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—Geneva is growing in popularity with economical English people as a winter resort.

—France will initiate Russia and Germany in the use of carrier pigeons for military purposes.

—It is currently stated that it costs the English Government \$2,000,000 annually to support Queen Victoria and her immediate family.

—There are more than 200,000 persons in Italy who inhabit dark cellars and 4,905 communities which are so poor that meat is never seen on the table and bread only on Sundays.

—It is interesting to know that the hair which waves from the helmets of French dragons is the real article, being the product of Chinese and Tonkin skulls. It is finer and lighter than horsehair.

—There are probably 100,000,000 of people in Europe to-day who do not eat meat more than once a week, and the number is not inconsiderable—it must be reckoned in millions—who have that privilege not often more than once or twice a year.

—The largest gold coin in circulation in the world is stated to be the gold "loof," of Annam, the French colony in Eastern Asia. It is a flat round piece worth 405. The next in size to this unwieldy coin is the Japanese "obang," which weighs more than two ounces and a half, about equal to ten English sovereigns.

—At first the savings bank attracted so little attention in Japan that at the end of 1875 there were only 3,000 depositors, with \$3,000,000. Thereafter, however, the figures increased at a remarkable rate. In 1876 the deposits amounted to \$10,000,000, in 1883 to \$25,000,000, in 1885 to \$25,000,000, and in 1889 to \$4,100,000.

—Twenty years ago the German Government—a mighty powerful corporation—undertook to abolish the Socialist party. As a result of a persecution, where there was one Socialist at the outset there were now ten. The party has become so strong that the government has been obliged to recognize it as a political element too powerful for repression.

—Native writers in native papers in India are arguing that the brief agony of the pyre was a merciful arrangement compared with the misery and odium of life-long widowhood. A fearful picture is drawn of the sufferings of a girl should an old man or a young boy, to whom she has been betrothed, but whom she has never seen, chance to die. The agitation on the subject is increasing in India.

—The theory that there was a connection between Babylon and China in ancient times has much in its favor, and as the idea seems to be growing in importance it may be interesting to know that it was suggested by an American, Rev. William Frederick Williams, in an unpublished letter addressed to Rev. Leonard Bacon, D. D., and dated June 15, 1853. This document is preserved in the library of Yale College.

AMPHIBIOUS HOLLAND.

Its Varying Aspects and the Fidelity of Its People.

Far over the sea is a famous little country generally known as Holland; but that name, even if it means Hollow land, or how land? does not describe it half so well as this—"The Funny Land of Pluck."

Verily, a queerer bit of earth was never shown upon by the sun nor washed by the tide. It is the oddest, funniest country that ever raised its head from the waves (and, between ourselves, it does not quite rise long just the same in any one place). It may be said to have lain around loose on the waters of a certain portion of Europe, playing peek-a-boo with its inhabitants; now coming to the surface here and there to attend to matters, then taking a dive for change of scene—and a most disastrous dive it often proved.

Rip Van Winkle himself changed less between his great sleeping and waking than Holland has altered many a time between sunset and dawn. All its permanence and resoluteness seems to have soaked out of it, or rather been sifted from it, and into the people. Every field hesitates whether to turn into a pond or not, and the ponds are always trying to leave the country by the shortest cut. One would suppose that under this condition of things the only untroubled creatures would be the turtles and ducks; but no, the strangest and most mysterious of all every living thing in Holland seems to be placid and content.

The Dutch mind, so to speak, is at once anti-dry and waterproof. Little children run about in fields where once their grandfathers saw and over the hills; and young maidens row their pleasure-boats where their ancestors played "tag" among the haystacks. When the tide sweeps unceremoniously over Myneer's garden he lights his pipe, takes his fishing-rod and sits down on his back porch to try his luck. If his pet pond breaks loose and slips away he whistles, puts up a dam so that it can't come back, and decides what crop shall be raised in its vacant place. None but the Dutch could live so tranquilly in Holland; though, for that matter, if it had not been for the Dutch we may be sure there would have been by this time no Holland at all.

And yet this very Holland, besides holding its own place, has managed to gain a foothold in almost every quarter of the globe. An account of its colonies is a history in itself. In the East Indies alone it commands twenty-four millions of people.—St. Nicholas.

FOOLED THE LION.

An African Hunter Saves His Life by Barking Like a Dog.

Wild beasts are easily alarmed by the unexpected. The Italian's organ monkey that saved itself from an evidently dog by taking off its cap, evidently seemed to put off his own head. A stranger instance is related by an African hunter who had returned from the Hottentot country, where he had been trapping for the animal collectors of Hamburg. He was out one afternoon with some of the natives, preparing a bait in a rocky ravine.

"We had built a stout fence of the rocks and logs and placed a calf as a bait. The sun was nearly down as we started for camp, and no one had the least suspicion of the presence of danger until a lion, which had been crouched beside a bush, sprang out and knocked me down.

"In springing upon his prey the lion or tiger strikes as he seizes. This blow of the paw, if it falls on the right spot, disables the victim at once.

"I was so near this fellow that he simply roared, seized me by the shoulder and pulled me down. I was flat on the earth before I realized what had happened.

"I was on my back and he stood with both paws on my waist, facing the natives and growling savagely. The men ran off about three hundred feet, and then halted, which was doubtless the reason why I was not carried off at once.

"I can say without conceit that I was fairly cool. The attack had come so suddenly that I had not had time to get rattled. I had been told by an old Boer hunter that if I ever found myself in such a predicament as this I must appeal to the lion's fears.

"I had moved my arm to get my pistol the beast would have lowered his head and seized my throat. So long as I lay quiet, he reasoned that I was dead, and gave his attention to the natives.

"Suddenly I barked like a dog, following the bark with a growl, and the beast jumped twenty feet in his surprise. He came down between me and the natives, and I turned enough to see that his tail was down.

"I uttered more barks and growls, and without moving a hand, and the lion, after making the South and North, suddenly bolted and went off with a screech which would last him a week.

"If you had picked up a stick and discovered it to be a snake, you would do just as the lion did. He supposed he had pulled down a man. The man turned into a dog. He could not understand it, and he frightened him."—San Francisco Journal.

TRUST FOR A DINNER.

An Easy Thing to Get if Asked for in the Right Way.

A well-dressed, bright-looking young man entered a French restaurant where tables d'hôte dinner for fifty cents was advertised, and asked the proprietor in good French the following question: "Will you trust me for a dinner to-night, sir? I will pay you to-morrow evening."

"Certainly. Sit down."

The young man had his dinner and ordered a cigar besides, while he had given his check to the proprietor.

"Do you know the man?" I asked the proprietor.

"Never saw him before."

"Well, he's a good fellow, or he would not have asked me for credit. He is well dressed, and can not always be without money."

"But did it not occur to you that he might be a fraud?"

"Perhaps, but I never refuse a man a dinner, and he asked for it in a manly way. Some people would not ask, but would eat the dinner and be quite satisfied to be kicked out afterward."

"Do you have many applications of that kind?"

"Every night I have some one, and I have never lost a dollar yet in that way."

"How do you account for this?"

"That a man rarely repudiates the fact that he is honest when another man shows him that he can be. I get a good deal of trade that way, too."

There are few men in New York who would be willing to run the risk of trusting every well-dressed young man even to the extent of a quarter, but the plain-hearted Frenchman has found in his modest little basement the medium of appealing to the honor of the impetuous—through their stomach.—N. Y. Star.

THE HAY BATH.

A Novel Method of Curing Disease in Switzerland.

It appears that in Tyrol they have a form of bathing which is peculiar to that country. New-mown hay constitutes the material of the bath. So popular are these baths, and so simple, that upon many of the Alpine heights there are small huts belonging to the mountaineers which they built especially for the purpose. The bather, having completely divested himself of his clothing, lies down in the hay, and an attendant covers him with hay to the neck.

Some one must be on the watch during the hay bath, which many invalids take to restore declining bodily functions, notably that of the heart. When the patient has copiously perspired, he is "dug out" and dried by the "bathing attendant." He himself is seldom in a condition to do this, owing to the extreme lassitude produced by the "bath." He can generally manage to dress himself, however.

So many patronize these baths that they often lie in the hay bed to head, as many as the place will hold. How dirty and crushed the hay is at the end of the season any one can imagine. The "hay-bath" cure is not without its dangers. Several years ago two bathers fainted on emerging from the steaming hot mountain hay, which would indicate a powerful effect on the vital functions that is not observable in ordinary cases of fainting from the heat of an overcrowded room, which, as every one knows, is not dangerous.—Boston Herald.

SHE UNDERSTOOD IT ALL.

The Iron Horse Classed as Railroad Stock.

"Do you ever read the news about the markets?" said Maud to Mamie.

"Oh, sometimes, especially the dry-goods advertisements; I think they're useful for that."

"Oh! I don't mean that; the rises and falls, and bulls and bears, and Wall Street and all such things."

"Yes, I know. They talk about water-ways, and stocks, don't they? I never understood until the other day what they meant by that."

"What does it mean?"

"Why, when I was coming in on the train they stopped for awhile and I heard a gentleman say that the engine was taking water."

"Well, what of that?"

"Well, of course you know they call the engine an iron horse sometimes. And if you had ever been in the country you'd know that horses are stock, and so that explains every thing just lovely, doesn't it?"—Washington Post.

A Slight Impediment.

Clerk of the Court—Why don't that fourth man answer to his name?

Foreman of Jury—He's deaf and dumb.

Clerk of the Court—Why don't he say so?—Munsey's Weekly.

DOMESTIC CONCERNS.

—Steamed Brown Bread: One quart each of milk and Indian meal, one pint yeast meal, one cup of molasses, two teaspoonsful of soda; add a little salt and steam four hours.

—Graham Muffins: Beat together one egg, one tablespoonful of sugar, one tablespoonful of melted butter, and add one teaspoonful of sweet milk, a little salt, two teaspoonsful of Graham flour and three tablespoonsful of baking powder. Bake in muffin rings.—N. Y. World.

—Old Style "Pan Dowdy": Cover the bottom of a pudding-dish with pared, sliced apples an inch thick, sprinkle cracker crumbs half an inch; continue until the dish is full, sprinkling sugar over each layer. Bake one hour, the first half covered with a plate. Eat with cream.—Good Housekeeping.

—Oil Pickle: One hundred small cucumbers sliced, as for the table, but unpeeled, to be covered with a salt water three or four hours; three pints peeled onions, one cup celery seed, one cup mustard seed, one-half cup pepper kernels, two cups olive oil. Drain the cucumbers, then mix all the ingredients; put in the jar and cover with good vinegar.—Boston Budget.

—Cake Trifle: Take a round white cake, cut out the inside about an inch from the edge and bottom. Fill the inside with a tartard made of the yolks of four eggs, a pint of boiling milk sweetened well and flavored, place on the custard any kind of jam or jelly that may be preferred, and cover the whole with the whites of the eggs beaten very stiff, with the powdered sugar.—Boston Herald.

—Fruit Pies: Any nice canned fruit such as peaches, cherries, apricots, etc., will make delicious pies. Use about one can to a large pie, adding five tablespoonsful of sugar and a tablespoonful of flour. In covering fruit pies, take the two edges between the first finger and the thumb, and thus pinch together the whole circumference; then fold over the edge about a quarter of an inch, and again make the circle, this time with a fork or print. Then if the apertures have been made in the upper crust for the escape of steam, the liquid will not ooze out.—Demorest's Monthly.

—Baked Beans with Beef: Pick one quart of beans free from stones and dirt. Wash, soak in cold water over night. In the morning pour off the water. Cover with hot water, put two pounds of corned beef with them and boil until they begin to split open (the time depends on the age of the beans, but it will be from thirty to sixty minutes). Turn them into the colander and pour over them two or three quarts of cold water. Put about half the beans into a deep earthen pot, then put in the beef, and finally the remainder of the beans. Mix one teaspoonful of mustard and one teaspoonful of ketchup with a little water. Pour this over the beans, and then add boiling water just to cover. Bake slowly ten hours. Add a little water occasionally.—Yankee Blade.

ATTRACTIVE TEA-GOWNS.

Seasonable suggestions for Tasty Home Toilets.

Tea-gowns are more beautiful and elaborate than ever, but are worn only as a demi-toilet when entertaining at home a few intimate friends. A pretty gown of this kind, made of one of the recent openings of pale rose-colored bengaline, tight-fitting back and front, with a "Watteau plait" shirred from the collar to a point on a level with the top of the shoulders, and falling from thence forming a part of the demi-toilet back of the skirt. The skirt is made of plain across the bust, and from here to the waist line an arrangement of thin tucks, each daintily feather-stitched in pale-blue silk, formed a Spanish girdle effect, the cuffs, collar and belt being similarly finished.

A narrow ribbon of cream and blue edged with gold silk, and a row of fish for the neck and sleeves, and a bewildering little cap, so small that it was hardly more than a lace choux, made a home toilet which was a thing of beauty.

A pretty embroidered gown formed a part of the trousseau of a millionaire's daughter who recently became a bride. The front and sides of the gown, the short train and bodice, were of pale but-ter-colored satin, of marvelous sheen and texture. The front edges of the side panels were hand-embroidered in pale shades of green with gold work, in a band six inches wide, while at intervals of four inches were humming-birds in green and pale rose color so accurately imitated in raised embroidery that they seemed to be real. A similar scroll-work finished the edge of the skirt, and on one side, and formed a graceful diagonal band across it from left to right. The bottom of these panels was trimmed in heavy silk fringe of the color of the dress. Underneath the panels was a false skirt of pale rose color, verging sea-shell pink, which presented the appearance of sea-shell.

It was a sailor's knot about a foot from the hem. The decolette bodice, which is invisibly hooked under the arms, has embroidered shoulder-straps, and is trimmed front and back with aiglets of pale green ostrich-plum feathers, each with a gold ring, and a row of gold buttons, which are nestled stuffed humming-birds. The jewels worn with this unique and beautiful costume were Roman pearls, necklace, and tiara, which set off to perfection the blonde beauty of their lucky possessor.—Chicago Times.

THE FASHIONABLE NAIL.

It Is Pointed to Give the Fingers a Tidy Appearance.

The nails of a fashionable woman are often to put it strongly—a positive abomination. They are vulgar, just as any thing that is overdone and pronounced as vulgar. And they are altogether "against nature," quite as much as if they were stained with henna like those of her East Indian sister.

To conform to nature, the nail should be trimmed round to follow the line of the finger tip instead of being slanted up in a long, sharp point, which is supposed to add a tapering look to the finger, but which really suggests the claws of a bird. And then they are polished too highly.

To a fastidious mind the overwrought glistening of the nail is as offensive—because it is as unnatural—as the painted cheek or the darkened eyes. Artifice in the finger-tips is no less vulgar than artifice in the face. And it is not beautiful. Nature is an artist who does not make mistakes. If the beauty of the nail were really enhanced by laying a hard glistening polish upon it, she would have known how to do so.—N. Y. Sunday Journal.

ASHES AND BONE-MEAL.

Details of Experiments of the Wisconsin Agricultural Station.

A recent bulletin of the Wisconsin Experiment Station gives details of experiments in feeding hard wood ashes and bone-meal to hogs living on corn, water and salt. The first lot of hogs was fed nothing else; the second lot was fed a little ground bone daily; the third lot had free access to a trough of hard wood ashes. Three separate trials were made.

As the average of the three trials, it was found that where neither ashes nor bone-meal was fed, 629 pounds of corn-meal were required to produce 100 pounds of gain with the pigs. Where ashes were fed, 491 pounds only were required. Where bone-meal was fed, 487 pounds of corn were required to produce 100 pounds of gain. This shows that the ashes aided digestion, and made a given amount of feed go further. The most interesting part of the experiment, perhaps, relates to the bones of the pigs. It was found that where no ashes or bone-meal were fed the bones of the pigs were quite weak. The thick bones cut out from the hams were broken in two by an average pressure of 301 pounds where no ashes or bone-meal were fed. Where ashes were fed, 581 pounds of pressure were required, while the bones from the bone-meal-fed pigs required 680 pounds of pressure to break a bone. The thigh bones of the pigs were then burned, and it was found that those receiving no bone-meal or ashes contained 107 grams of mineral matter, and those from the hogs getting ashes gave 150 grams, while those getting bone-meal gave 185 grams. Prof. Henry gives the following conclusions as drawn from the work:

1. That the effect of the bone-meal and ashes was to save about 130 pounds of corn, or 28 per cent. of the total amount fed in producing 100 pounds of gain, live weight.

2. That by feeding the bone-meal we doubled the strength of the thigh bones; ashes nearly doubled the strength of the bones.

3. There was about 50 per cent. more ash in the bones of the hogs receiving bone-meal and hard wood ashes than in the others.

No difference was found in the proportion of fat to lean meat in the body. The benefits of the ashes, therefore, seem limited to strengthening the bones and aiding digestion. These, however, are very important, and warrant our farmers in using some mineral agent of this character regularly and freely in hog feeding, especially where much corn is fed. Bone-meal seems to build up somewhat stronger bones than ashes, but ashes do the work very well, and cost much less. Even where the corn is not of itself built up by strong bones, and must be supplemented by ash material from other sources. They point most plainly to one cause, at least, of hogs becoming thin and lacking bone, a common complaint in the corn-growing sections. Sows and growing pigs should not have their diet restricted to corn alone, although that grain is exceedingly valuable as a part of the ration. A variety of food should be provided, such as clover, blue grass, shorts, peas, oats and skim milk. Even where the corn is liberally used, ashes should be accessible at all times.—Ohio Farmer.

A PURSLANE TOOL.

According to Its Inventor It Is a Capital Contrivance.

In answer to a recent inquiry I inclose a rough draft of a tool I have been using in eradicating purslane. The one I made is for use in my grape nursery where the rows are eighteen to twenty inches apart. Where rows are farther apart it would have to be larger.

This tool has much the look of a cultivator at work with the ends reversed. In using it we let the weeds get large enough to pull nicely from in the row, cultivate with a common horse or hand cultivator; following with the tool described, and if the rows are not too long it will clean them perfectly. If it should be necessary to go around before getting to the end of row, lift the tool without stopping the horse; this leaves it in a bunch, when it can be carried from the row.

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Pulmonary Diseases.

The lungs play a most important part in the machinery of life. It is essential that they be kept in good repair. Nature has endowed this organ of life with wonderful resources for preserving the violences as on record where the lungs have been shot through with a leaden bullet and the wound quickly healed. Therefore their lungs should be kept in good repair. When the lungs feel sore and breathing is painful the proper remedy is Dr. John Bull's Catarrh Cure. Its tendency is to heal all alterations either internal or external. Many an invalid whose case was pronounced hopeless has been restored to vigorous health by a timely use of this excellent compound. If you will not try this remedy you have only yourself to blame if you do not get well.

"Why do you put up that sign, 'Hands off, on the outside of your building'?" "Because my men are on a strike."—Boston Gazette.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh That Contain Mercury.

As mercury will surely destroy the sense of the outside of your building." "Because my men are on a strike."—Boston Gazette.

BEFORE the use of Prickly Ash Bitters became general throughout the South and West, it was a fearful disease of "Blue Man," and daily doses of quinine, that was forced down the throats of sufferers from all manner of troubles. In place of such obnoxious harrowing cures, Prickly Ash Bitters, with its mild, soothing action, not only holds supreme sway, but after one trial its use, when necessary, is forever established. You who have sick-headaches, sour stomachs, diseased liver or kidneys, can do no better than to give it a trial.

"PAPA, why do they call this census report from Washington a rough count?" "Because it has not been filed yet, my son."

Borne Down with Infirmities.

Age finds its surest solace in the benignant aid afforded by Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, which counteracts rheumatic and malarial tendencies, relieves growing activity of the kidneys, and is the finest remedy extant for disorders of the stomach, liver and bowels. Nervousness, too, with its attendant ailments, is promptly relieved by it.

Do the doctors take a vacation in the summer because it is a healthy season, or is it a healthy season because they take a vacation?—Fiegele Blatter.

The most potent remedies for the cure of disease have been discovered by accident. The first dose of Dr. Shallenberger's Anti-dote for Malaria was given, as an experiment, to an old lady almost dying from the effects of Malaria, on whom Quinine acted as a poison. One dose cured her; and a single dose has cured thousands since. It is the only known antidote for the poison of Malaria. Sold by Druggists.

It may be said of a man who invests in a quarry that his lot is a hard one.

BRONCHITIS is cured by frequent small doses of Piso's Cure for Consumption.

The office of a dentist is also a studio. While he is drawing those about him are making music and dancing.—N. O. Picayune.

Of course there are exceptions to the rule "the good die young," but there aren't many of us.—Elmira Gazette.

General maxims applied to everyday life are like routine applied to the arts, good only for mediocre intellects.—Talleyrand.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22, 1890.

CATTLE—Native Steers, \$5.25 to \$5.00.

COTTON—Middling, 4.60 to 4.50.

WHEAT—No. 2 Red, 1.05 to 1.04 1/2.

COIN—No. 2, 63 to 62 1/2.

POUR—Mess, 11.00 to 12.00.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 22, 1890.

COTTON—Middling, 4.50 to 4.40.

BEEVES—Export Steers, 4.00 to 3.50.

HOGS—Common to Select, 3.50 to 3.45.

SHEEP—Fair to Choice, 4.00 to 3.85.

FLOUR—Patent, 4.50 to 4.35.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 22, 1890.

WHEAT—No. 2 Red Winter, 1.00 to .98 1/2.

COIN—No. 2, 62 to 61 1/2.

RYE—No. 2, 62 to 61 1/2.

TOBACCO—Lugs (Missouri), 2.00 to 1.90.

EGGS—Fresh, 18 to 19.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22, 1890.

CATTLE—Shipping Steers, 3.25 to 3.40.

CORN—No. 2, 42 to 41 1/2.

SHEEP—Good to Choice, 4.25 to 4.10.

FLOUR—Winter Patents, 4.50 to 4.40.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 22, 1890.

FLOUR—High Grade, 4.50 to 4.10.

COIN—White, 62 to 61 1/2.

OATS—Choice Western, 16 to 15 1/2.

POUR—New Mess, 10 to 9 1/2.

LOUISVILLE, Dec. 22, 1890.

WHEAT—No. 2 Red, 1.00 to .98 1/2.

COIN—No. 2, 62 to 61 1/2.

OATS—No. 2, 12 to 11 1/2.

BAKON—Clear Rib, 11 to 10 1/2.

How To Make Prime Butter.

It is the aggregate of little things that makes success of almost any business. The last session of the New York Dairywomen's Association declared:

1. Milk from healthy cows only should be